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HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS

By

CHARLES C. MURRAH

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list of Author

DEDICATION

This pamphlet is particularly dedicated to my Mother, who devoted her life to the advancement of religion and education. If it brings her memory before the men and women of to-day, who were the boys and girls of her tutorage, I shall feel well repaid for this publication.

FOREWORD

"Creal Springs Seminary", opened its doors as a school on September 22, 1884. On August 29, 1888, by virtue of a Charter granted by the Secretary of State, of the State of Illinois, it became known as "Creal Springs Seminary Company".

On January 5, 1894, a Charter was granted to "Creal Springs College and Conservatory of Music", which corporation became the legal successor of "Creal Springs Seminary Company".

Creal Springs College and Conservatory of Music, continued until the year 1916, when it closed its doors never to re-open again as an institution of learning.

That is the beginning and the end of the oldest educational establishment of its kind in Williamson County, Illinois. The years between 1884 and 1916 now belong to history. And with the intention of preserving at least a part of that history, the author has put together the events pertinent to such an undertaking.

The records examined were voluminous and contain the names of thousands of persons who in some way were identified with Creal Springs. The omission of any name or event is for no other reason than lack of information concerning the same.

Believing this publication to be authentic, and hoping that it may be interesting to many people now living, my typewriter and I proceed.

Merriam, Illinois,
September 1, 1937.

CHARLES C. MURRAH.



The above photograph is a correct likeness of Creal Springs College and Conservatory of Music, as it appeared in the latter part of the nineteenth century, and at the time of its closing as an educational institution.

GERTRUDE BROWN MURRAH

GERTRUDE BROWN, was born on a farm near old Mendota, in Williamson County, Illinois, on December 18, 1831. She attended school at Brownsville country school, Southern Illinois College at Carbondale, State Institute at Flora, Ewing College at Ewing, and graduated from the College Department of Mt. Carroll Seminary, Mt. Carroll, Illinois, in the Class of 1875.

She taught in the country schools of Williamson and Franklin Counties, in the High School at Frankfort, in Ewing College, in Creal Springs Seminary, and in Creal Springs College and Conservatory of Music.

On October 6, 1866, she was baptized and became a member of Hurricane Baptist Church, located near Carterville, Illinois. In that religion she never wavered.

On October 3, 1880, at the home of her parents, near Carterville, Illinois, she was married to Henry Clay Murrah. To this union, two sons were born.

In 1912, a former member of the Illinois Legislature wrote of her as follows: "I have personally known Mrs. Gertrude Brown Murrah for more than forty years, and have watched her career with great interest. As founder and President of Creal Springs Seminary and later of Creal Springs College, she has done a magnificent work for the young men and women of this and other States. As a teacher, I doubt if she has any superior in this country. Her personality is an in-

gregation to those who come in contact with her. She demonstrated character and has the wonderful faculty of making noble and women of those who have come under her charge. She has overcome obstacles that seemed insurmountable, and her patient and fortitude has carried on a work, the results of which will last through eternity."

Gertrude Bronck Murphy, died at the home of her son, Frank C. Murphy, in Homer, Illinois, on the 3rd day of January, 1929. She was buried beside her husband in the Hill Cemetery, at Marion, Illinois.

HENRY CLAY MURRAH

To be a farmer, merchant, salesman, and teacher, Henry Clay Murrah was born on a farm near Nashville, Tennessee, on April 11, 1847. He came to Illinois with his parents when a small boy and located on a farm near what is now Johnston City. He attended school in the country schools, in Ewing College at Ewing, Illinois, and in the Southern Illinois Normal, at Carbondale.

He taught in the country schools of Williamson and Franklin Counties, in Creal Springs Seminary, and Creal Springs College and Conservatory of Music.

He died at Creal Springs, Illinois, on June 9, 1920. Reading a newspaper account of his death, one of his former pupils wrote as follows:

"When I read of the death of Mr. Murrah, it made me very, very sad, for I knew that one of the best friends of my childhood had passed to the great beyond. His kind ways and hearty laugh made us his friend. . . ."

INSTRUCTORS

The names of Gertrude Brown Murrah and Henry Clay Murrah are given special prominence in this publication, for the reason that both were inseparably linked with the origination, life and end of the institution about which this article is written. There are, however, many other instructors and Teachers, who gave much of their time and energy toward the development of the Seminary and College. From Catalogues we take the names of the following Instructors and Teachers in the several Departments:

Miss Alice P. McIntire	M. A. Fisher
Miss Lovina Odum	Miss Emma Gullett
J. H. White	Miss Flora Keith
Miss Dora Nicka	D. H. Harris
Miss Mattie Odum	Miss Vina S. Denel
Miss M. M. Hatch	Miss Grace Herrin
Miss Hattie Chambers	W. E. Richeson
Miss Sarah Moyers	Miss Minnie Owen
Miss Augusta D. Swan	Miss Amanda M. Hicks
Mrs. M. M. Gall	Miss Ruth Herrin
Miss Inez L. Barlow	Mrs. L. A. Bidez
Miss Clara Brown	J. P. F. Smith
F. W. Noller	Miss Alta Holmes Blackmore
T. O. Hawkins	Miss Beatrice Pickett
Ed Simpson	Miss Ella Heaton
Miss Cara Brown	Miss Dora Ulrich
Miss Dora Chambers	Miss Ella Augusta Bulkley

Miss Nina Carlson

Miss Lulu Slack

Miss Carrie Dillman

Robert L. Atwood

Frank Hayward

Miss Zoe Wyland

Miss Carrie Bartholomew

Miss Carrie A. Hartsch

Miss Maud G. Buchanan

Miss S. Olive Williams

E. J. Bashore

Miss Ruth Davies

Miss Georgia A. Lowland

Miss Ada Atwood

Miss Sarah Middlebrook

Miss Mayme B. McRae

Miss Estelle Graham

Miss Victoria Brownlee

Miss Anna Townsend

Miss Walker

Miss Mabel Kingle

To these splendid men and women who are now here and especially those with whom the author came in contact in some capacities for many, many kindhearted and the best of to a true, a belated acknowledgment of some work performed.

THE RECORDS

Many of the male records of the Seminary are with a long hand with pen and ink. So perfect are the characters and is not the shading, that at first glance one might think some of the pages were taken out of a Spencerian copy book. The last printed publication was a catalogue printed in 1884 by the "Miner Job Office", at Marion, Illinois. It is a small printed pamphlet of six pages including the covers. In it is listed the Faculty and students and other matters pertaining to the school year 1884-5 of the Seminary. The Faculty listed is follows:

H. C. MURRAH, Proprietor.

MRS. G. B. MURRAH, Principal.

MISS ALICE P. McINTIRE, Teacher of Instrumental Music and Voice Culture.

ED SIMPSON, Teacher of Penmanship.

MISS LOVINA ODUM, Teacher in the Preparatory Department.

MISS CORA BROWN, Teacher of Primary Studies.

Similar publications were issued annually thereafter, until 1894, when the first "Catalogue of Creal Springs College", was printed by the "Democrat Print", of Metropolis, Illinois.

The largest catalogue found was printed and published in 1904, but the name of the printer is not shown on it. It is on a high grade of paper, a splendid job of printing, and similar to the publications of the present day. It has 48 pages and is neatly bound. There were 81 students that year, with six graduating. The following courses were offered in the institution at that time:

CLASSICAL, Degree of A. B.

LATIN SCIENTIFIC, Degree of B. S.

PHILOSOPHICAL, Degree of Ph. B.

ACADEMIC AND COURSES IN MUSIC.

In Volume I, Number 1, of the "Seminary Star", were
written by these Quakers, Anna Smith, Flora Cornell,
Minnie Dean, Lou L. Barber, Will A. Bradley, Ben-
jamin Robt. Moore, Mary McRaven, H. L. Throckmorton,
and R. McThompson, on subjects of current interest to all
workers in paper of that time.

The Moravians were at Lypps Altona, Illinois, during the
school year 1890-91, and no records were found for that
period. For lack of information we do not attempt to report
the names of that year.

The Faculty in 1903-4. was as follows:

MRS. C. H. MURRAH, President

MRS. C. H. MURRAH

Mrs. H. C. Murrah

Mrs. Hattie Joehum

Mrs. Carrie Bellmar

Mrs. Ella Augusta Bulley

Mrs. Georgia Lovelace

Mrs. E. J. Bashore

Mrs. Ruth Davies

Mrs. Clara R. McRae

Mrs. Mary R. McRae

Mrs. L. Alwood

Mrs. Dora Litch

Mrs. Ada Alwood

There were other publications found among the records such as "The Seminary Star", "The Erius Star", "The College Edition", "The Coal Springs News", and numerous other minor publications, all of which furnished an outlet for the expression of the teachers and students in school.

LOCATION AND CONSTRUCTION

Creal Springs is located in the Southern part of Illinois, in the County of Williamson, on an elevation of the Ozark mountain range. It is 1500 feet above the level of the sea, about 700 feet above Cairo and 500 feet higher than St. Louis.

A man by the name of Edward G. Creal owned the land on which the City was built, and numerous natural springs having medicinal qualities were discovered there. Hence the name CREAL SPRINGS.

To the north of the south City Limits ran "Sugar Creek", a winding, running stream, and above it was "Turkey Bluff", casting its shadow across the clear water. And there were hazyuckle vines, dewy morning glories and roses, and tall sturdy bullyhocks, and waving trees, and acorns and fresh plowed soil, dark and damp and warm and soft. The freshness and sweetness of earth and the beauty of nature were there. To an observer, it was springtime and winter, summer and fall, darkness and daylight, rain and sunshine, just as his yearning willed.

On February 8, 1884, Henry C. Murrah and Gertrude B. Murrah, acquired title to five acres of ground in this location, from E. G. Creal and Amanda C. Creal, his wife, "to be used for School purposes".

It was to this place the Murrachs came in the summer of 1884. There was an railroad near Creal Springs; no one had

yet thought of the name.

with the HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS.

At the highest point on their recently acquired tract, Gertrude B. Murrah and Henry Clay Murrah, intended to be erected a rectangular wooden building, about 50 feet long and 30 feet wide. There was a full basement, divided into three rooms—a kitchen, a dining room, a pantry, and two bedrooms. There was a hallway down the center. The first level was the assembly room, early referred to as "Seminary Hall."

The third level was divided into seven rooms for the use of girl students. The "attic" was partly finished and used for the storage of trunks and other articles for which no place could be found.

On September 22, 1884, "CREAL SPRINGS SEMINARY", formally opened in this building, dedicated to "higher mental, moral and Christian culture". The school gave four years of academic work and two years of College study. It was the intention of the founders to build a school for girls only, but on opening day, as many boys as girls applied for admission. This changed the original plan and the school became co-educational from the first.

Although but six persons presented themselves for admission on opening day, the school grew rapidly, and at the end of the first year there were 12 Collegiate students, 31 Preparatory students, 7 Primary students and 9 Music students.

yet thought of the hard road and the automobile. In
with the HOUSE, AND BUGGY DAYS

At the highest point on their recently acquired estate
land, Governor B. Morrish and Henry Clay Morrish
in he erected a rectangular wooden building, about 50 feet long
and 33 feet wide. There was a full basement, divided into
rooms—a kitchen, a dining room, a parlor, and two
rooms. There was a hallway down the center. The
first was the assembly room, early referred to as "Dance
Hall."

The third level was divided into seven rooms for the
of girl students. The "atrium" was partly finished and used for
the storage of books and other articles for which no place
be found.

On September 22, 1894, "CREAL SPRINGS RE-
INARV", formally opened in this building, dedicated to
higher mental, moral and Christian culture". The school
gave four years of academic work and two years of Col-
lege. It was the intention of the founders to build a school
for girls only, but on opening day, as many boys as girls ap-
plied for admission. This changed the original plan and the
school became co-educational from the first.

Although but no persons presented themselves for admission
on opening day, the school grew rapidly, and at the end
of the first year there were 12 Collegiate students, 31 Pre-
paratory students, 7 Primary students and 9 Music students.

About the year 1890 an addition was built on the East end of the original structure, three stories in height, and containing 6 rooms—two class rooms on the first floor, two music rooms on the second floor, and two living rooms on the third floor.

The institution continued to grow, and in about the year 1895 a second addition was attached to the West end of the original building. On the first floor of this last addition, were two large class rooms; on the second floor, two living rooms and a large reception room; on the third floor, four living rooms; and on the top floor, two living rooms. All available space in these buildings was immediately taken for school rooms, class rooms, living quarters for the founders, and living quarters for a number of girl students. Lack of space, however, made it necessary for a number of girl students and all of the boy students to find living quarters in private homes in Creal Springs.

In about the year 1900, plans were made and blue prints drawn for a new building to be erected about 200 feet West of the original building, which was to have a large auditorium, additional class rooms and a boys' Dormitory, but construction of this building never began. Death only divorced the founders from this dream for the blue prints were found among their belongings.

THE COLLEGE CAMPUS

The five acre tract of land mentioned in an earlier part of this history was enclosed with wooden fencing. There was

also 4 wooden fences running north and south, separating the space about one hundred feet in width on the east, from the remainder of the tract.

In the southeast part of this fenced-off space were a number of small, single-story, hallways and hay lofts. The horses and two parts of the Murrah were kept in the stable, the hay in the hallways, and hay was stored in the lofts. On the west side of the barn was the chicken house where the chickens were kept, and the white and brown hens were kept in the same.

South of the Chicken house was the greenhouse, and also the other well remembered several structures which he was told and recalled accordingly—with his father. The little well was the pump house—a round shaped building and he many others.

There were all these other structures on the ground which we believe to mention, but this article would be too long to mention as did Sutter if to say, they were the same as of building the immortal Chic Sule wrote about in his book "The Specialist".

From the east having just east of the main College building up to the west line of the whole tract, was the College Campus. To the north of the college buildings were apple and cherry, pear and various trees. To the south and to the west were oak, poplar and larkspur. Around the College building and to the south of them, were rose bushes and garden.

and, and it was not long before the whole campus was well settled.

When red leaved Autumn with her falling golden leaves, bowed her head from under fast moving clouds, when the song of the robins with the warbled melody of a thousand sweet voiced birds and violins of the perfume of many flowers; when a cooling sun disappeared, leaving a blood-red smear in its sunset; when twilight and long, creeping shadows came to the end of the day, both teachers and pupils could be seen around even the campus in song, in study, in meditation, and in silence.

EQUIPMENT

In the kitchen was a cook stove with six lids on top and a sink at the side. It was heated with wood at first and later a coal coal. There were two long tables, a cupboard for dishes and a drain tile at the rear end. In the dining room two tables and chairs with places for eight at each table. A serving door stood at the south end.

There was a round platform at the west end of "Seminary hall" and over it were the President's desk and chair. The remainder of the hall was filled with individual desks placed in rows with gates on either side and a double aisle down the center. The class rooms were equipped with the same style of desks placed in the same manner, with a table and chair at the front for the use of the instructor. There were blackboards along the walls in the class rooms.

There was a laboratory although it was small and crowded. Most of the paraphernalia in it was just borrowed from national and local Professors in the school; it served, however, as a help than a hindrance and research work in the sciences and enabled them to demonstrate more clearly the principles of very teaching.

There was a library which grew until it contained a considerable volume of history, literature, science, and all the classics. The Congressional Record was always available.

Each student's room was furnished with a bed, dresser and wash, closet, chest, mirror, table, chair and rug. There was a desk in the room of the instructor in Music, and also a desk in each of the three music rooms.

WATER SUPPLY

There was a cistern on either side of the original structure to supply hot and cold water from the roofs of the College building. Two cisterns furnished a reservoir for collecting water not to domestic purposes, and they were drawn at regular intervals.

At the southeast corner of the east wing was a public supply of water furnished an abundant supply of water for use in drinking purposes. This well was fed by a pump from a cistern, and although the demand on it was great it was never known to go dry.

To the south and east of the leafy-roofed grape arbor was a
water rock-lined well containing soft water which was used
only for cooking purposes.

This water supply was guarded zealously. And although
there was little sickness at any time, none was ever traced to
the water supply of Cretal Springs College.

HEAT AND LIGHT

The College buildings were heated with coal or wood
and located in most every room in the big wooden house. In
the center of "Seminary Hall" was the largest stove the author
ever saw; around it, when the days were cold outside, would
be gathered the greater part of the student body.

Light was furnished by kerosene lamps with shades on
as in living rooms and reflectors on the backs of those in
Seminary Hall.

The only fire-fighting apparatus in Cretal Springs was
dats, cisterns and wells, and human hands. Although
throughout the years many buildings in town were destroyed
by fire, the College buildings are still standing. It would seem
though they were spared for the purpose for which erected.
Who knows?

THE FIRST BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SPRINGS COLLEGE AND CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

This corporation was organized, and for the purpose for which it was organized is stated in Article IV of the Charter, and reads as follows:

"The particular object for which said board is to provide for thorough and extended instruction in all branches included, at present, in the course of study in the Great Springs Seminary, and such other and additional branches as are usually included in the curriculum of a college to provide for and offer to persons of both sexes, and of all ages, opportunities for obtaining a thorough and complete college education; to maintain a course of Bible instruction; to provide a Music Hall, and furnish and maintain for a Conservatory of Music, the means and facilities for a musical study and practice taught, as part of the main department of the Great Springs Seminary, and also and additional grades as are usually included in thorough and extended course of musical instruction; to provide for physical training and development; to provide for and assist in any or all departments of said College and Seminary for shall be conducive of physical healthfulness and vigor; to confer diplomas, degrees, and such other honors as are usually granted by

...to receive, hold, invest and disburse for education all moneys and property or the income thereof, which may be donated in or intrusted to the care of said corporation, and to sell, grant, bequest, devise or otherwise; to fix rates of tuition and determine the qualifications necessary for admission to said College and Conservatory of Music; to provide a building in which shall be taught the arts of drawing and painting; to purchase the property belonging to Great Springs Seminary and library, employ teachers; and in general, to do all the things necessary to the accomplishment of any and all the objects named in this article."

The Charter further provided that the management of the corporation should be vested in a Board of 15 Trustees, and that at all times two-thirds of the Trustees, the President of the Institution, and the heads of the Departments in the same should be members of regular Baptist Churches.

The First Trustees elected, with their addresses, were as follows:

Rev. W. S. Blackman, Harrisburg, Illinois.

Dr. G. S. Smith, Great Springs, Illinois.

Rev. J. W. Chambers, Great Springs, Illinois.

Rev. W. W. Wendt, Great Springs, Illinois.

Rev. C. H. Caldwell, Ozark, Illinois.

J. S. Hawkins, Galatia, Illinois.

J. W. Henson, New Burnside, Illinois.

Rev. Calvin Allen, Creal Springs, Illinois.
Rev. J. K. Trovillion, Brownfield, Illinois.
M. E. Chamness, Chamness, Illinois.
Levi Ferrell, Creal Springs, Illinois.
Rev. G. W. Danbury, DuQuoin, Illinois.
Rev. John A. Williams, Dongola, Illinois.
Rev. C. Nolen, Parrish, Illinois.
Rev. L. L. Smoot, Vienna, Illinois.

Not only were two-thirds of the first Trustees elected members of regular Baptist churches, but ALL of them were. Ten of the fifteen were MINISTERS of Baptist Churches.

At the first meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mrs. C. B. Murrah was elected President of the College.

THE ERINA LITERARY SOCIETY

Is there a man or woman now living who ever attended the Seminary or College who does not remember FRIDAY NIGHT and the Erina Literary Society?

It was the night of the day the school week ended. It was the night that both Teachers and Students were given an opportunity for expression. And (incidentally) it was the night many a romance found its beginning; *vitiis nemo sine nascitur*.

The Erina Society recorded its first meeting on October 15, 1885. Ed Simpson was the President and Sula Smith the Secretary, Pro Tem.

The Society had a Constitution and By-Laws. The object stated "shall be the improvement of its members in the various modes of music, debate, oration, recitation and reading and the cultivation of those styles and graces of delivery which are necessary to any of the above exercises."

The Society also had a publication called the "Erina". A copy of the publication dated February, 1895, was sent, and in it the Editorial Staff were listed as:

Kath Harris

Thos. E. Brown

Bertie Brown

Joe F. Madsen

THE SCHOOL YEAR

The school year began the first of September and ended the end of June. It was divided into Terms—the Fall Term, Winter Term, and the Spring Term. There was a vacation in during Christmas week and at Thanksgiving. In the month of June, July and August the large wooden College buildings were vacant, except the living quarters of the faculty. During these hot summer months when the blistering heat of the sun beat down furiously the founders busied themselves in rearranging and cleaning the buildings and in growing things promising for the coming year. The wind, the sun, the rain, and the haze on the hills, spoke a language understood. Each levelness of light and shadow they

saw, each enterprise they undertook, and these were essential to their undertaking.

Day after day, week after week, and year after year school exercises began each morning at eight o'clock in "Jimmie Mary Hall". There was an old-fashioned organ at first which was later replaced by a piano which stood in the southeast corner of the hall. A hymn was played and sung; a chapter was read from the Bible, followed by a prayer led by Mr. Marsh. Next a prayer of high sounding phrases from the hymn book, but a fervent, simple prayer that could come only from the heart—always imploring Almighty God for guidance.

After the opening exercises were concluded classes were grouped and school work began in earnest. The school day ended at four o'clock. From seven until nine in the evening was the study period and at nine-thirty the lights were put out and the day was ended for all except the founders.

COMMENCEMENT

The last week in each school year was Commencement Week. Why the ending of anything should be called the commencement we shall not try to explain here; be that as it may, Commencement Week at Creel Springs College resembled a family gathering of a large family. Old graduates and old students came back. The Board of Trustees met and elected a President and employed teachers for the coming year. The Lima Literary Society had its reunion. The solemn graduation

on Thursday morning ended the planned occasions of the week. Then the teachers and students went scurrying home, many of them never to see each other again.

THE STUDENT BODY

The Author has not undertaken to make a list of the students who through the years attended the Seminary or College. However, several graduate students later became Teachers at the institution and their names are shown among the Instructors. To all former students now living we say that we hope there has been some measure of satisfaction come to you because of the fact that you were identified with Creal Springs Seminary or Creal Springs College and Conservatory of Music.

CONCLUSION

On December 24, 1916, the founders of Creal Springs Seminary and Creal Springs College and Conservatory of Music locked the doors of the College building and moved to a cottage in the fringe of the woods, located about 400 feet East of the College Campus. Here they lived until the death of Henry Clay Murrah in the summer of 1920.

Who can speak of their hopes and fears? Who can solve the mystery of their quiet hours that only they knew? "Whether I be near the shore, or in mid ocean, or among the breakers, I but a wreck must mark the end of one and all".

The word "farewell" is the saddest word in our language. And so until the flying clouds scudded across the cold white

face of the moon on that January night in 1929, when she did
did Gertrude Brown Marshall say farewell to Coal Spring
College and Conservatory of Music—the institutions of learning
in which she gave her life.

The end.

